

Attorney Docket No.: KUZ0031US.NP
Inventors: Minoru Kohara
Serial No.: 10/584,372
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REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8-13 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-5 and 8-13 have been rejected. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 12 has been canceled in light of the amendments to claim 1. Support for this amendment is provided by canceled claim 12 and teachings in the specification at paragraph [0030]. New dependent claims 14 through 17 have been added. Support for these claims is provided in claims 2 and 3, paragraph [0028] and claim 13. No new matter is added by these amendments. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of these amendments and the following remarks.

I. Objection to Claim 12

Claim 12 has been objected to as the word "aluminate" is spelled incorrectly. Claim 12 has been canceled, thus mooted this objection. Elements of claim 12 are now recited in claim 1 wherein the word "aluminate" is spelled correctly.

Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

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II. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 8-11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasukochi et al. (WO 03/062342) in view of Hori et al. (U.S. Patent 6,146,656) and Tsubota et al. (U.S. Patent 5,049,417).

Claims 1-5 and 8-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hori et al. (U.S. Patent 6,146,656) in view of Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent 5,851,662).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In an earnest effort to advance the prosecution of this case, claim 1, from which all other claims ultimately depend, has been amended to specify that the pseudo-crosslinking compound is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of hexanediamine, ethylenediamine, diethylenetriamine, potassium aluminate, sodium aluminate, calcium aluminate, resorcinol and hydroquinone. These pseudo-crosslinking compounds were previously presented in claim 12, now canceled, as well as teachings in the specification at paragraph [0030]. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 1, from which all other claims ultimately depend, further recites the ratio of the content of the plasticizer

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to the content of the pseudo-crosslinking compound ranges from 30:1 to 150:1.

As demonstrated by the working examples of the instant application, these claimed features provide a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer with rich elasticity under low stress and rich plasticity under medium stress.

None of the cited references teach or suggest use of the instant claimed features of one or more of hexanediamine, ethylenediamine, diethylenetriamine, potassium aluminate, sodium aluminate, calcium aluminate, resorcinol or hydroquinone as a pseudo-crosslinking agent in a specific ratio to the plasticizer as set forth in claim 1, or claims dependent therefrom.

Instead, the Examiner has acknowledged teachings of teachings of Yasukochi et al. to be limited to boric acid and derivatives thereof such as borates and boric esters as crosslinking agents; Tsubota et al. to be limited to amino resin, epoxy compounds, boric acid and alkoxides of Ti, Zr. etc. as crosslinking agents; and Suzuki et al. to teach pyrocatechol as the crosslinking agent. Hori et al. is silent with respect to use of any crosslinking agents.

Accordingly, the cited combinations of references do not teach or suggest all elements of the instant claimed

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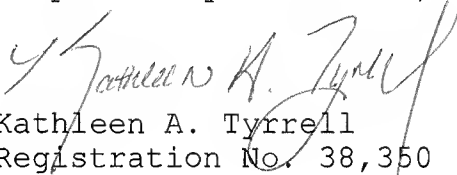
invention and therefore cannot render obvious the instant claimed invention.

Withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing comprises a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and subsequent allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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